



## Laughlin Town Advisory Board

REGIONAL GOVERNMENT CENTER  
101 CIVIC WAY  
LAUGHLIN, NEVADA 89029  
(702) 298-0828  
FAX (702) 298-6132

### MINUTES

#### LAUGHLIN TOWN ADVISORY BOARD

May 31, 2011  
1:30 P.M.

REGIONAL GOVERNMENT CENTER  
101 CIVIC WAY, LAUGHLIN, NEVADA

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Candice Fitzgerald, Vice-Chair**  
**Michael A. Bekoff**  
**Rosemary Munger**  
**James Vincent**

MEMBERS ABSENT: **Janet Barela, Chair** (Excused Absence)

OTHERS PRESENT: 5 Guests Signed In

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Conformance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law.
- B. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. **Candice FitzGerald** called the Meeting to order at 1:30 PM. **Michael Bekoff** gave the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by **Rosemary Munger**.
- C. Agenda items may be taken out of order if deemed necessary.

#### 2. ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

- A. **Approval of the May 31, 2011, Agenda.**

**Mike Bekoff** moved, **James Vincent** seconded to approve the May 31, 2011, Laughlin Town Advisory Board Agenda as presented. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 4-0 (**Janet Barela** absent).

3. **COMMUNITY INPUT/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**(No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action will be taken).**

**James Vincent** reported that the Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 30, 2011, was held at Fisherman's Park in Laughlin. Several residents noticed on the way to the service that the flags at the Clark County Regional Government Center were not being flown at half-mast in honor of fallen veterans. Because it was a holiday there were no Clark County employees present to lower the flags and it wasn't anticipated in advance. There are a group of citizen volunteers who would be willing to work with Clark County staff in the future to appropriately raise or lower flags as appropriate on holidays. The Parks & Recreation Committee will discuss and coordinate this effort with the volunteers.

**Dorothy Lewis**, 3739 Cottage Canyon Street, Laughlin, NV, stated appreciation to and thanked **Leslie Uncel** for beautifying the front of the government building when problems there were reported to her.

**Dick McCall**, 3835 Desert Marina Drive, Laughlin, NV, stated that it is the desire of he and other Laughlin residents to change the name of Fisherman's Access to Veteran's Memorial Park. **Jackie Brady** responded that the Fisherman's Access property is owned by the State of Nevada so inquiries can be made, but the rules for name changes will have to be explored. **James Vincent** stated that this may be another issued that could be discussed by the Parks & Recreation Committee.

4. **COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND CONCERNS:**

- A. **Consider a letter from the Laughlin Town Advisory Board to the University of Nevada Reno, requesting the continued operation of the Laughlin Cooperative Extension Office and retention of the economic development programs that have benefited the Laughlin area when considering state mandated budget cuts, and take any action deemed appropriate.**

**Debbie Marcusson**, Extension Educator, reported that the University President has submitted a budget cut of 72% from the Cooperative Extension budget to the Nevada Legislature. Once the Legislature has determined statewide higher education cuts, the recommendation will then go to the Board of Regents for approval of cuts to the colleges within the university. The time frame is between now and the middle of June 2011.

The following letter was drafted and read into the record:



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May 31, 2011

Scott Wasserman  
Chief Executive Officer of the Board of Regents  
University of Nevada, Reno  
5550 W. Flamingo Road, Suite C-1  
Las Vegas, NV 89103

Dear Mr. Wasserman:

It has come to the attention of the Laughlin Town Advisory Board that drastic budget cuts are being considered in the College of Cooperative Extension budget due to state mandated budget reductions.

After many years of waiting, all of the communities in Southern Nevada being served are very appreciative that the new Cooperative Extension Office in Laughlin is open and operating under the direction of Debbie Marcusson.

It is the sincere hope of the communities affected that the newly opened Laughlin Cooperative Extension Office is not being considered for closure. Debbie Marcusson has been working diligently to acquire the necessary survey information to implement suitable programs to serve the needs of residents of this and other surrounding communities.

Preliminary survey results indicate health and nutrition were a major concern of Laughlin and Searchlight residents. There is a demographic of older residents in both communities who would greatly benefit from health and nutrition programs that the Extension Office could offer. A Community Garden Project and Master Gardener Program have already been initiated in Laughlin by Ms. Marcusson, and many residents are looking forward to participating.

The possibility of employee cuts is also a concern because Buddy Borden (Area Extension Specialist/Community Economic Development), for example, has been instrumental in assisting with grants, programs, and development in Laughlin for over a dozen years. The loss of people like Buddy Borden and UNCE's Economic Development Program would have a profound and immediate impact on Laughlin given the leadership, history, and knowledge that would be lost.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SUSAN BRAGGS, Chairman \* STEVE SASSO, AK, Vice-Chair  
TOM COLLINS \* LARRY BROWN \* LAWRENCE WHEELY \* CHRIS GUNCIERIAN \* MARY BETH SCOW  
DONALD H. BURNETTE, County Manager

Scott Wasserman, Chief Executive Officer of the Board of Regents  
University of Nevada, Reno  
May 31, 2011  
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The Laughlin Town Advisory Board appreciates your serious consideration of our request to maintain the Laughlin Cooperative Extension Office and key employees in the economic development programs, especially when this type of assistance is so essential at this time.

Respectfully,



Janet Barela, Chair  
Laughlin Town Advisory Board

cc: Karen Hinton, Dean/Director, UNCE  
Jerry Buk, Area Director, Southern Area Offices, UNCE  
Buddy Borden, Area Extension Specialist, Community Economic Dev., UNCE  
Jackie Brady, Laughlin Town Manager  
Laughlin Town Advisory Board  
Debbie Marcusson, Extension Educator, Laughlin UNCE Office

**James Vincent** moved, **Michael Bekoff** seconded to approve the letter as presented. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 4-0 (**Janet Barela** absent).

**Connie Davis**, Director of Operations, Laughlin Chamber of Commerce, read into the record a letter from the Laughlin Chamber of Commerce nearly identical to the one drafted for the Laughlin Town Advisory Board. The Laughlin Town Advisory Board expressed concern that the letters being identical diminished the impact of both letters and **Ms. Davis** stated that the Chamber of Commerce letter will be re-written before being sent to **Mr. Wasserman**.

5. **NEXT POSSIBLE MEETING DATE:** The next regular meeting date is Tuesday, June 14, 2011, at 1:30 P.M., Regional Government Center, 101 Civic Way, Laughlin, Nevada. Agenda items due no later than June 3, 2011.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

**Michael Bekoff** moved, **James Vincent** seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:48 PM. Upon a voice vote motion carried 4-0 (**Janet Barela** absent).

*These meeting minutes are in draft form and will be formally approved at the June 14, 2011 meeting. Any corrections to these minutes will be reflected in the meeting minutes of the July 12, 2011 meeting.*